Ethanol Coalition of Michigan (ECOM)

2002

Member Accomplishment & Activities

Who We Are

The Ethanol Coalition of Michigan (ECOM) unites commodity organizations, fuel suppliers, educators, producers, businesses, government agencies and individuals who are interested in expanding the production and use of ethanol in Michigan.

ECOM goals include: increasing public awareness on the benefits of ethanol; supporting legislative efforts, encouraging positive ethanol marketing practices and presenting ethanol educational programs to schools, civic groups and other interested parties.

Contact Information

For additional information and/or to receive the monthly ECOM newsletter, contact Kelly Launder, Michigan Biomass Energy Program Manager at (517) 241-6223 or by email at: klaund@michigan.gov

ECOM information is also available at **http://michiganbioenergy.org/ethanol/ecom.htm**

Marketing/Promotional Activities

- "Home Grown Fuels" campaign was launched by GrowMark. Bumper stickers, sales literature, and farm signs were distributed.
- GrowMark supplied E10 to four Michigan petroleum marketers. 70% of all gasoline sold by GrowMark contained 10% ethanol.
- Greater Lansing Clean Cities Coalition worked with U.S. Post Office on relocating E85 flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs) to areas where refueling is available.
- Various members worked with producers, distributors, and retail stations to reduce the price of E85 to the consumer.
- The MI Energy Office (EO) developed an E85 informational card, which included general ethanol information and list of MI refueling sites. Cards were provided to all eight E85 refueling sites to distribute to customers and to the State Secondary Complex to place in state FFVs.

Educational Activities

- Lansing Community College (LCC) representatives made Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) presentations at St. Johns High School, Oakland Skill Center in Pontiac, and the Auto Value Technician Exposition.
- LCC participated in Jackson Community College Exposition and St. Johns High School Car Show and distributed ethanol information.
- LCC hosted one of the fifty National AFV Day Odyssey events held throughout the United States. The purpose of these events were to build awareness about alternative fueled vehicles and encourage their increased use by government and private fleets.
- The Michigan Corn Growers Assn. (MCGA) developed ethanol banners and a kiosk that is devoted to ethanol on one side to display at events.
- MCGA partnered with MI Farm Bureau and the MI Dept. of Agriculture on "Ag Day" at Oldsmobile Park. Ethanol vehicles were displayed and information was distributed.
- MCGA sponsored "Ethanol Night at the Races" at Dixie Motor Speedway in Birch Run and Butler Motor Speedway in Coldwater.
- EO staff made ethanol presentations at the National AFV Day Odyssey in Ann Arbor and Rural Partners of Michigan Conference in Frankenmuth.
- More than 300 copies of the EO paper *"Opportunities and Constraints for Ethanol-based Transportation Fuels"* were distributed through the website.
- EO staff collaborated with BBI International on an article featuring ECOM, which appeared in an issue of the Energy Independent (a newsletter for the Ethanol Industry).
- EO published nine editions of the Ethanol Coalition of Michigan News and distributed each edition to over 250 individuals and state legislators.
- An ECOM page was added to the EO-Michigan Biomass Energy Program website. (http://michiganbioenergy.org/ethanol/ ecom.htm).
- ECOM members participated in the Ohio/Michigan Bio-fuels Conference.

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Ethanol Facts

In 2002 an annual ethanol production record was set with over 2 billion gallons of ethanol produced in the United States.

One bushel of corn produces up to 2.7 gallons of ethanol.

Ethanol-blended fuel accounts for over 12% of the total U.S. gasoline sales.

There are currently 74 ethanol production facilities operating in the U.S. and 10 new facilities under construction.

One acre of corn produces enough ethanol to displace 10 barrels of foreign oil.

According to Argonne National Laboratory, ethanol-blended fuel can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12-19% when used in place of conventional gasoline.

Other Ethanol Accomplishments

- Michigan Ethanol, LLC began ethanol production in November 2002. The 40 MGY plant is Michigan's first large-scale ethanol production facility. The plant has 41 employees with an estimated annual payroll of more than $1 million. It is estimated that the plant will process 15,000,000 bushels of corn annually. The production facility is 95% computer controlled and includes an on-site microbiology laboratory.
- The Greater Lansing and Ann Arbor Clean Cities Coalitions were awarded Energy Office AFV incentive grants. Incentives can be used for flexible fuel vehicle purchases and to pay for some of the incremental cost of E85.
- Legislation was passed to ban the use of MTBE in Michigan, effective June 2003.
- The University of Michigan – Dearborn completed a first phase evaluation of exhaust emissions from E-10 and E85 fuel blends in a small, single cylinder spark-ignition engine. A portion of this work will continue for the next two years as a part of a larger project funded by the National Science Foundation.
- MCGA Board Member, Bruce Noel joined the National Corn Growers Assn. Ethanol Committee and attended the March, 2002 "*Renewable Fuel Standard*" rally in Washington.
- As part of the 2002 Clean Snowmobile Challenge, Kettering University modified a snowmobile to run on ethanol blends up to 85%. When compared to a two-stroke control snowmobile, their snowmobile had emission reductions of 36.6% in unburned hydrocarbons (UHC) and 72.5% in carbon monoxide when operating on 10% ethanol blends (E10). Tests conducted at the Southwest Research Institute showed additional emission reductions (compared to operation on E10) of up to 50% for hydrocarbons, 37% for carbon monoxide and 58% for particulate matter when using 85% ethanol blends.
- The final report for a Kettering University project to improve the cold start performance in ethanol vehicles was completed. The project titled "Development of Technologies to Improve Cold Start Performance of Ethanol Vehicles" focused on the use of hydrogen enrichment for cold start improvements.
- MCGA began funding research on the use of e-diesel.
- MCGA partnered on a livestock feeding trial of Dried Distillers Grain (DDG).
- A published Michigan State University study found that .56MJ of energy associated with ethanol is required to generate one MJ of energy. "Therefore [the researchers conclude], the available energy from ethanol is much higher than the input energy for producing ethanol." Researchers also noted that, "the use of ethanol as a transportation fuel would significantly reduce domestic use of petroleum."